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CLAIMS:

What is claimed is:

1. A method for securely transferring information in a communications system, the method comprising:

responsive to receiving an input indicating activation of a secure data transfer mode, converting signals from a keypad into speech signals; and

transmitting the speech signals to a receiving party.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the transmitting step comprises:

correlating a signal from a key on the keypad to a word; and

generating a speech signal representing the word.

3. The method of claim 1 further comprising:

responsive to receiving the input, sending a selected signal to the receiving party, wherein a visual indicator is presented to the receiving party to indicate the secure data transfer.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the converting step and the transmitting step are performed by a data processing system connected to the communications system and wherein the signals from the communications pad are dual tone multi frequency signals.

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5. The method of claim 1, wherein the converting step and the transmitting step are performed in a communications device.

6. The method of claim 5, wherein the communications device is a telephone or a wireless communications device.

7. The method of claim 1 further comprising:
preventing transmission of voice signals in response to receiving an input indicating activation of a secure data transfer mode.

8. A telephone comprising:
a processing unit;
a keypad connected to the processing unit;
a transmitter connected to the processing unit,
wherein the transmitter sends signals into a communications network; and
a microphone connected to the processing unit; and a transmitter connected to the processing unit, wherein the processor converts signals received from the keypad into speech signals in response to receiving an input indicating activation of a secure data transfer mode; and transmits the speech signals to a receiving party through the transmitter.

9. The telephone of claim 8, wherein the processing unit is a microprocessor or an application specific integrated circuit.

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10. A server comprising:

a bus system;

a memory connected to the bus system, wherein the memory includes a set of instructions;

a communications adapter connected to the bus system; and

a processing unit connected to the bus system, wherein the processing unit executes the set of instructions to detect an indication to enable a secure transfer state from a party to a call, receive DTMF signals from the party to the call; convert the dual tone multi frequency signals from the keypad into speech signals when the secure transfer state is enabled; and transmit the speech signals to a receiving party through the transmitter.

11. A data processing system for securely transferring information in a communications system, the data processing system comprising:

converting means, responsive to receiving an input indicating activation of a secure data transfer mode, for converting signals from a communications keypad into speech signals; and

transmitting means for transmitting the speech signals to a receiving party.

12. The data processing system of claim 11, wherein the transmitting means comprises:

correlating means for correlating a signal from a key on the communications keypad to a word; and

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generating means for generating a speech signal representing the word.

13. The data processing system of claim 11 further comprising:

sending means, responsive to receiving the input, for sending a selected signal to the receiving party in which a visual indicator is presented to the receiving party to indicate the secure data transfer.

14. The data processing system of claim 11, wherein the converting means and the transmitting means are performed by a data processing system connected to the communications system and wherein the signals from the communications pad are dual tone multi frequency.

15. The data processing system of claim 11, wherein the converting means and the transmitting means are performed in a communications device.

16. The data processing system of claim 15, wherein the communications device is a telephone or a wireless communications device.

17. The data processing system of claim 11, wherein the transmitting means is a first transmitting means and further comprising:

second transmitting means for transmission of voice signals in response to receiving an input indicating activation of a secure data transfer mode.

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18. A computer program product in a computer readable medium for securely transferring information in a communication system, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions, responsive to receiving an input indicating activation of a secure data transfer mode, for converting signals from the communications keypad into speech signals; and

second instructions for transmitting the speech signals to a receiving party.

19. The computer program product of claim 18, wherein the second instructions comprises:

first sub-instructions for correlating a signal from a key on the communications keypad to a word; and

second sub-instructions for generating a speech signal representing the word.

20. The computer program product of claim 18 further comprising:

third instructions, responsive to receiving the input, for sending a selected signal to the receiving party, wherein a visual indicator is presented to the receiving party to indicate the secure data transfer.

21. The computer program product of claim 18, wherein the first instructions and the second instructions are executed by a data processing system connected to the communications system and wherein the signals from the communications pad are dual tone multi frequency.

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22. The computer program product of claim 18, wherein the first instructions and the second instructions are executed in a communications device.

23. The computer program product of claim 22, wherein the communications device is a telephone or a wireless communications device.